

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 412  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kenneth Dewitt Schermerhorn, music director and principal conductor of the Nashville Symphony.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn, music director and principal conductor of the Nashville Symphony; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn, a charismatic leader and passionate musician, was instrumental in bringing the Nashville Symphony to new levels of artistic achievement and public support during more than two decades of service; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn led the expansion and growth of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra from a small, mostly part-time ensemble to an orchestra of 84 full-time, professional, nationally ranked musicians; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn played a significant role in the development of both the opera and ballet companies for Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn led the Nashville Symphony on its first East Coast tour, which culminated in a stunning and critically acclaimed debut at Carnegie Hall on September 25, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn and the Nashville Symphony, under his leadership, received rave reviews from prestigious national, regional and local media, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Houston Chronicle* and *The Baltimore Sun*, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn played an integral role in a multi-disc recording agreement between the Nashville Symphony and Naxos, which has yielded three Grammy

Award nominations and several critically acclaimed CDs that are breaking sales records worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn led the Nashville Symphony in several nationally broadcast performances, including, among others, “An Evening with the Nashville Symphony,” which aired on PBS throughout 2001 and 2002; a Fourth of July performance on the A&E cable network in 2003; and, in February 2005, a National Public Radio “SymphonyCast” featuring works by American composers George Gershwin and Morton Gould; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn’s visionary artistic leadership helped create the need, vision and desire for the construction of a new, world-class symphony concert hall for Nashville; and

WHEREAS, though Maestro Schermerhorn did not live to see the completion of Schermerhorn Symphony Center, it is clearly a significant part of his legacy – an acoustical and design masterpiece comparable to the greatest concert halls in the world; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn was the proud father of Erica Ancona, Veronica Chasanoff and Stefan Schermerhorn; father-in-law of Glen Ancona, Robert Chasanoff and Kathryn Schermerhorn; grandfather of Riley Dewitt, Daphne Louise and Kory Beth Ancona, and Brian K. and Jamie Leigh Chasanoff; and brother of Leonore Schermerhorn; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn’s passing leaves a great void in the lives of his dear friends, including Martha R. Ingram; the board, musicians and staff of the Nashville Symphony; and the countless others he befriended, inspired and influenced throughout his life and career; and

WHEREAS, Maestro Schermerhorn leaves behind a legacy of musical excellence and passionate advocacy for the Nashville Symphony and the world’s arts community. Through music, he lifted our spirits and transported us to a realm of beauty and inspiration; and

WHEREAS, although Maestro Schermerhorn’s absence from the podium leaves an immense void, his spirit will inspire us all for years to come. Generations will benefit from the foundations he laid in Music City, USA; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional musical genius and passionate human being; he grounded the Nashville and Tennessee arts community with a confidence that they could aspire to greatness

and stand toe-to-toe with other performing arts communities around the world. For that and for his incomparable gifts to us we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kenneth Dewitt Schermerhorn, reflecting fondly on his warm and wonderful character, his love of life and his stalwart commitment to advancing the cause of music and the performing arts in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Maestro Schermerhorn.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.